

Koenings' Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #21

January 15, 2021

Dear Reeded Edge Half Collector:

Most of you indicated an interest in Reeded Edge Halves when you purchased my book "REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS 1836 TO 1839, R-4 to R-8 DIE VARIETIES". Others were added to my list of interested collectors after I announced my "38 Most Common Die Marriages" would be emailed once a month, starting in August, 2019 at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago. I am now encouraging Liberty Seated Coin Club Members to join in the hunt.

My intention is to educate collectors further in the study of Reeded Edge Halves. I will continue to report such topics as follows:

1. The 38 Most Common Die Marriages (started August, 2019 on a monthly basis).
2. The results of recent auction sales of R-4 and rarer die marriages.
3. Have photos of interesting die stages.
4. Plan to have a 2nd Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census by November, 2021.

38 Most Common Die Marriages (continued)

In December 15, 2020's Newsletter #20, I presented information and photos on the 1837 GR-19 die marriage. Next on the list, is the 1837 GR-20 die marriage.

1837 GR-20

The 1837 GR-20 die marriage is common and rated R-3 (201 to 500 known). It is composed of Obverse 15 (first use) and Reverse R (previously used on 1837 GR-19). Graham lists a census of 66, 65, 65, 65, 64, 64, 64, 63 and 62, published in 2012. In my Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census, reported in the November 2018 John Reich Journal, I had 63, 62, 58, 58, 58, 53, 40, 35, 30 and 25 that were reported by JRCS and Bust Half Nut members.



1837 GR-20 PCGS MS64 Obverse VLDS (Courtesy of Heritage)

The dentils in the above photo appear to be complete, however the stars appear to be very stretched and I would have to consider this a Very Late Die Stage (VLDS) of 1837 GR-20. Since this obverse was also used on 1837 GR-21, I would think all GR-21's would have stretched stars.

The above photo is definitely Obverse 15 as the 7 appears to have been recut under the horizontal bar and there appears to be a horizontal die line through curl above the clasp (see circle above clasp). There is also a dot in the field above Star 12 (see circle) and as Graham mentions "Small dot behind lower part of ear almost touching hair curl".



1837 GR-20 PCGS MS64 Reverse VLDS (Courtesy of Heritage)

The above photo appears to be a Very Late Die Stage (VLDS) as a good portion of the dentils are missing. The lump in Olive Leaf (see smallest circle) appears clear, however, the line up from the top right corner of shield looks very weak (see largest circle). Graham mentions "Die fatigue causes weakness in all features especially dentils and legend". He also mentions "Die clash down from top of left wing to right toward the Eagle's neck". There does appear to be a large clash from the top of the Eagle's left wing to the Eagle's lower beak. On the next page, I will show a much clearer photo of the thin die line that is up from the right corner of the shield.

Although Graham lists several mint state coins in his census, I only found the above coin in Heritage's archives.



1837 GR-19 NGC UNC Details Reverse with Circles

This is the first use of Reverse R in Graham's book. 1837 GR-20 is the 2nd use. Another reason this reverse is difficult to identify is the very thin die line up from the junction of the right corner of the shield and the right wing is difficult to see even on high grade coins (see large circle in above photo).

Commentary

There are 25 known die marriages for the year 1837. Although that is the most for any one year of Reeded Edge Halves, it is also the easiest year to complete. There are just 4

More 1837's die marriages left in the 38 Most Common Reeded Edge Halves. I will be covering the following:

<u>Die Marriage</u>	<u>Rarity</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Date</u>
1837 GR-21	R-2	22	2-15-21
1837 GR-22	R-2	23	3-15-21
1837 GR-23	R-2	24	4-15-21
1837 GR-24	R-2	25	5-15-21

After that, I plan to do the year 1838, probably the easiest year to attribute with only 16 known die marriages and only one very difficult die marriage (1838 GR-5, R-6+). Most collectors should be able to find the (3) R-4 die marriages (1838 GR-7, 1838 GR-12 and 1837 GR-16).

ATTENTION

Reeded Edge Half Census #2 is scheduled for later in the year 2021. A Preliminary Reeded Edge Half Census #1 was emailed in Newsletter #2 in September 2018. The Final Reeded Edge Half Census #1 was published in the J R Journal in November 2018.

A Preliminary Reeded Edge Half Census #2 will most likely be shown in the July 2021 Newsletter. Next month, I am planning on repeating the Preliminary Reeded Edge Half Census #1 to show how few specimens it took to make the Top 15 collections.

Additional Commentary

I invite readers of this Newsletter to provide me with pictures and information about your rare finds so I can feature them in a future Newsletter.

Again, If you have any comments about Reeded Edge Half dollars that I might include in future Reeded Edge Half Newsletters, please email me at bustcoin1@verizon.net or send them to:

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JRCS

I strongly recommend that all collectors join JRCS. JRCS publishes its J R Journal normally about 3 times a year. There is so much you can learn from the many articles that are published, including New Discoveries, Census Information on early silver issues, mint processes, die stage information and more. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact W. David Perkins at wdperki@attglobal.net.

LSCC

I also strongly recommend that collectors interested in Liberty Seated Coins join LSCC. LSCC publishes its Gobrecht Journal 3 times a year by Bill Bugert. They also have their E-Gobrecht Monthly Newsletter that is published by Paul Kluth. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact Jeff Ball at jeffballphoto@gmail.com.